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Message Text

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15
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-03

OMB-01 SS-15 /068 W
---------- 109132
R 281600Z FEB 75
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 519
HQ DEA WASHDC
INFO AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SNAR
SUBJECT: DANISH GOVERNMENT INTENTION TO INCREASE MAXIMUM
NARCOTICS PENALTY

1. NEW SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT TODAY RESUBMITTED PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT'S BILL PROVIDING FOR INCREASE IN MAXIMUM PENALTY FOR NARCOTICS OFFENSES FROM SIX TO TEN YEARS. BILL IS IN FORM OF A SUPPLEMENT TO SECTION 191 OF DANISH CRIMINAL CODE, WHICH PROVIDES SENTENCE OF NOT MORE THAN SIX YEARS FOR "ANYONE WHO FOR A SUBSTANTIAL CONSIDERATION TRANSFERS, IMPORTS, EXPORTS, BUYS, SUPPLIES, RECEIVES, PRODUCES, MANUFACTURES, OR POSSESSES DRUGS FOR THE PURPOSE OF SALE..."

2. ACCORDING TO MINJUSTICE ORLA MOLLER, INTENT OF BILL IS NOT, REPEAT, NOT TO CHANGE PROCEDURE FOLLOWED IN CASES OF NARCOTICS USERS AND SMALL-SCALE PEDDLERS, BUT TO DETER INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKERS FROM VIEWING DENMARK AS AN "EASY" COUNTRY FOR NARCOTICS ACTIVITES.
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3. (WHILE MINJUSTICE MOLLER APPEARS INTERESTED IN INCREASING SENTENCES,
AN ARTICLE IN FEBRAURY 26 DAILY AKTUELT INDICATES HE WOULD NOT GO SO FAR AS AUTHORIZING "FLASH ROLLS" FOR THE NARCOTICS POLICE. ACCORDING TO AKTUELT, THIS SUGGESTION WAS MADE BY PROSECUTOR VOLMER NISSEN AND WAS "INSPIRED BY DEA, WHICH HAS JUST OPENED AN OFFICE IN THE AMERICAN EMBASSY." AKTUELT STATES THAT MINISTER MOLLER, WHO FEARS THAT SUCH A PROCEDURE WOULD LEAD TO "PROVOCATIONS" AND DANGER TO THE POLICE, WILL TAKE NO RPT NO INITIATVE IN THE MATTER, BUT WILL LATER DISCUSS THE NARCOTICS SITUATION WITH THE POLICE AND OTHERS INVOLVED.)

4. COMMENT: PASSAGE OF THE BILL WOULD BE A MORALE BOOSTER FOR DANISH POLICE, EVEN THOUGH MANY OF THEM WOULD PREFER EVEN STRONGER MEASURES (CHIEF NARCOTICS INVESTIGATOR ROBERT HANSEN A FEW DAYS AGO RECOMMENDED A TWENTY-YEAR MAXIMUM). POLICE FIRMLY BELIEVE SIX-YEAR MAXIMUM ATTRACTS TRAFFICKERS TO DENMARK, AND HAVE IN PAST EXPRESSED TO EMBOFFS THEIR EMBARRASSMENT IN DEALING WITH THEIR NORDIC POLICE COLLEAGUES, WHO HAVE BEEN CONCERNED THAT DANISH LENIENCY IS FACILITATING MOVEMENT OF DRUGS INTO UPPER SCANDINAVIA.
CROWE

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